

USDA-ARS Annual Friends & Neighbors Day Brings Needed Rain

The bigger the outdoor activity planned, the greater the likelihood of turning a 20% chance of rain into the most significant moisture event in 12 months! On July 20th, the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory hosted their annual Friends & Neighbors Day which routinely attracts 600-800 guests to the Mandan USDA-ARS campus. Due to rainfall, attendance this year was approximately half of previous years, but no one complained. Over a third inch of precipitation slowly soaked the many campus exhibitors and guests all afternoon. This was the largest rainfall in Mandan since the July 2005 Friends & Neighbors Day event, which was also soaked! The hardy Mandan USDA-ARS scientists shared their integrated crop, livestock, and environmental research information in the rain. The USDA-ARS Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center and USDA-ARS Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center exhibits were among the numerous federal, state, and local research organizations from throughout the regional exhibiting at this event.